



# USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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Agricultural Marketing Service

Poultry Programs

Market News Branch

## NATIONAL BROILER MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



Trade sentiment was steady to weak. Retail demand was quiet to seasonally fair with other traditional meat items and limited features receiving best interest. Food service was light to good. Supplies were more than sufficient and often discounted to increase interest. Some processing schedules were light in parts of the Northeast due to reduced needs. In the parts structure, supplies were at least adequate or available. Trading was moderate at best. In production areas, live supplies were moderate. Weights were mixed, mostly desirable.

**GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES** The Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for next week's trading remains unchanged at 58.50 cents based on full truck load lots of ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds. This compares to 64.75 cents last year on the 16th of December, 1998.

Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted prices on ice-packed parts for next week's trading.

### DOCK PRICE (CENTS PER POUND)

BREASTS - B/S	136.50
BREASTS - WHOLE	71.00
THIGH MEAT - B/S	70.00
LEG QUARTERS	20.00
WINGS	77.00

THIS INFORMATION IS SUPPLIED BY THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S POULTRY MARKET NEWS SERVICE.

### CHICK PLACEMENT AND EGG SET TOTAL

15 STATES			PERCENT CHANGE
WEEK ENDING 12/11/99	1999	1998	PREVIOUS YEAR
EGGS SET	180,930	180,668	0
CHICKS PLACED	140,782	142,208	-01

### Broiler Eggs Set In 15 Selected States Up Slightly

Commercial hatcheries in the 15-State weekly program set in incubators 181 million eggs during the week ending December 11, 1999. This was up slightly from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 82 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

### Broiler Chicks Placed Down 1 Percent

Broiler growers in the 15-State weekly program placed 141 million chicks for meat production during the week ending December 11, 1999. Placements were down 1 percent from the comparable week in 1998. Cumulative placements from January 3, 1999, through December 11, 1999, were 6.97 billion, up 2 percent from the same period a year earlier.

BASED ON THE PRELIMINARY CHICK PLACEMENTS, THE NUMBER OF FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING DURING THE WEEK ENDING 22-Jan-00 IS ESTIMATED AT 149.8 MILLION HEAD. THIS COMPARES TO 148.1 MILLION HEAD THE PREVIOUS WEEK AND TO 150.3 MILLION HEAD THE SAME WEEK A YEAR AGO, WHEN THE SLAUGHTER WAS 146.0 MILLION HEAD AND THE 12-CITY WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE WAS 59.26 CENTS PER POUND.

**WESTERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS** The market tone was about steady. Offerings adequate to ample. Surplus product slow to clear. Buyers interest was only fair. Retailer demand was moderate overall best for parts to cover features. The market tone was weak on bone-in breasts with balance of parts generally steady.

**SOUTHERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS** Trade sentiment was steady to barely steady. Demand was light and unaggressive with little trade activity. Food service was better with fast food, holiday shopping and parties improving movement. Supplies were at least adequate and readily available with discounting noted to help clear excess product. In the parts structure, all items were more than sufficient to handle the seasonally light demand. In production areas, live supplies were moderate. Weights were mostly desirable.

**MIDWEST REGION BROILER/FRYERS** Whole broiler/fryer trade sentiment was steady to barely steady, instances weak. Offerings of additional whole birds and WOG's were fully sufficient for the non-aggressive buyer interest. In Chicago, fill in trading on whole birds at 39 cents. Movement into retail channels was seasonally light to fair at best with traditional holiday items and features attracting best interest. Features noted in Chicago on whole birds at 39 cents and in St. Louis at 59 cents. Food service demand was light to good, mostly moderate. Floor stocks were balanced to ample with sizes desirable. Parts trading was irregular, with wings the best call. Supplies were adequate to fully adequate and building on all parts. Features reported in Chicago on boneless/skinless breasts and bagged leg quarters. Trade sentiment was cautiously steady to weak on boneless/skinless breasts and about steady on the balance of items.

**NORTHEAST REGION BROILER/FRYERS** Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was seasonally light. Offerings were more than sufficient for trade needs and competitively priced to stimulate buyer interest. Retail and distributive movement was slow. The market tone was barely steady to weak. In the parts market, breast items were barely steady to weak. All other items were generally about steady.

**DELMARVA BROILER/FRYER MARKET** Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was quiet. Offerings were more than sufficient and were competitively priced in an effort to stimulate activity, particularly on the smaller sizes. Live supplies were mostly moderate; weights continued to vary in a range of light to heavy, mostly light to desirable. Processing schedules were light as several plants reduced operations in an effort to keep in balance with seasonally lighter needs. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 54 to 66 cents. Trade sentiment was barely steady to weak. In the parts complex, all items were at least adequate for the limited buying interest.

\*BROILER/FRYER CURRENT NEGOTIATED PRICES FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY INCLUDES MOSTLY MULTIPLE-DROP SHIPMENTS OF BRANDED AND WING TAGGED TO NEW YORK CITY FROM DELMARVA

	BRANDED U.S. GRADE A
RANGE	48-66
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	56.06
NO. OF BOXES	9,516

\*6 of 8 plants reporting.

DECEMBER 14, 1999

	POUNDS			WTD
ITEM	(000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	AVG
BREAST - B/S	504	120.00-183.00	125-135	133.30
TENDERLOINS	95	110.00-165.00	125-135	133.42
BREAST - LINE RUN	77	68.00-72.00	-	68.42
FRONT HALVES	90	57.00-62.00	-	59.33
LEGS	48	24.00-34.00	24-25	25.67
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	539	15.50-19.00	16-17	16.33
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,258	17.00-20.50	19-20	19.63
WINGS (WHOLE)	102	72.00-77.00	73-75	74.25
WINGS (CUT)	342	80.00-90.00	85-87	85.32
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			

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 WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS  
 TRADING FOR DECEMBER 14, 1999 — F.O.B. DOCK.

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE
36.25-40.50	37.83

DECEMBER 15, 1999

	POUNDS			WTD
<u>ITEM</u>	<u>(000)</u>	<u>RANGE</u>	<u>MAJORITY</u>	<u>AVG</u>
BREAST - B/S	660	120.00-183.00	125-135	136.03
TENDERLOINS	70	125.00-165.00	130-135	140.71
BREAST - LINE RUN	75	66.00-73.00	67-68	66.75
FRONT HALVES	90	57.00-63.00	-	59.72
LEGS	49	24.00-34.00	24-25	25.84
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	506	15.50-29.00	16-17	16.83
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,137	17.00-21.00	19-20	19.62
WINGS (WHOLE)	93	72.00-77.00	72-74	73.18
WINGS (CUT)	272	80.00-90.00	85-89	85.55
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			

\*\*\*\*\*  
 WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS  
 TRADING FOR DECEMBER 15, 1999 — F.O.B. DOCK.

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	5-DAY AVERAGE
36.25 - 46.00	38.28	38.20

The Index is intended solely as an indicator of values for commodity-type product and does not represent industry's willingness to sell or ability to buy.

**NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYER PARTS**

Trucklot buying interest was very slow. Offerings were more than sufficient for trade needs. Retail and distributive movement was light with few features noted to stimulate interest. The market tone was barely steady to weak for breast items, generally steady on leg items. Wings were available.

\*PRICES PAID PER POUND, ICE PACKED AND CO2 PACKED BROILER/FRYER PARTS, DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES

DECEMBER 14, 1999

DECEMBER 15, 1999

ITEM	CURRENT NEG	WTD	VOL/LBS
	TRADING*	AVG**	
BREAST - B/S	130	135.88	382,160
TENDERLOINS	130	134.21	89,760
BREAST - WITH RIBS	60-61	70.99	219,960
BREAST - LINE RUN	60	65.13	114,400
LEGS	26-27	30.11	201,040
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	16-17	18.71	528,990
DRUMSTICKS	34-35	31.61	120,350
THIGHS	20-21	27.95	105,560
B/S THIGHS	70-71	73.85	46,500
WINGS (WHOLE)	71-72	80.45	242,640
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.01	62,920
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	40-45	39.61	54,975
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	55-60	64.82	92,480

ITEM	CURRENT NEG	WTD	VOL/LBS
	TRADING*	AVG**	
BREAST - B/S	125-130	130.64	311,520
TENDERLOINS	125	129.88	33,440
BREAST - WITH RIBS	60-61	71.16	166,640
BREAST - LINE RUN	60	60.65	198,560
LEGS	26-27	30.75	97,000
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	16-17	18.60	340,005
DRUMSTICKS	34-35	34.00	54,520
THIGHS	20-21	26.08	37,040
B/S THIGHS	70-71	69.72	14,200
WINGS (WHOLE)	71-72	82.46	104,360
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.13	17,880
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	40-45	34.57	3,080
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	55-60	61.97	11,880

INCLUDES: NY CITY METRO. AREA, RI, NORTHERN NJ, MA, CT, PA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG).

\* TODAY'S NEGOTIATED SALES AS OF 11:30 A.M.

\*\* WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE OF ALL GRADES AND BRANDS OF PRODUCT SHIPPED, OR TO BE SHIPPED AS OF 1:30 P.M.

**ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER OF BROILER-FRYERS (IN THOUSANDS)**

	ESTIMATED		ACTUAL		AVG WTS		AVG WTS	
	12/15	12/14	12/13	12/10	12/13	12/10	12/08	12/06
ALA	3,802	3,905	3,898	4,047	5.17	4.89	3,679	5.20
ARK	4,752	4,972	5,224	5,747	4.94	4.69	4,712	4.89
DELMARVA	1,925	2,049	2,473	2,165	5.22	5.15	2,334	5.27
KY-LA-TN	1,898	1,885	1,806	1,554	4.49	4.46	1,811	4.55
MISS	2,598	2,398	2,781	3,219	5.10	4.88	2,669	5.07
NC	2,513	2,636	2,542	2,612	5.90	5.72	2,619	5.98
TEXAS	2,148	1,989	2,096	2,686	4.86	4.73	1,983	4.83
TOTAL	19,636	19,834	20,177	22,030	5.11	4.91	19,807	5.11
MON-WED	59,913	(A)					60,085	(A)

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 15-Dec 99 is estimated to be 29,378,000 down 1.16 percent from a week ago and up 2.6 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 29,722,000; last year 28,636,000)

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY**

DELIVERED TO RETAILERS		RANGE
FRESH FRYERS		78-82
ROASTERS 4# & UP		80-90
HENS UNDER 5#		-
HENS OVER 5#		88
DUCKS		125
RABBITS-WHOLE		309
RABBITS-CUT UP		326
SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY		
DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS		
FRESH FRYERS	ICE PACK	92-98
	DRY PACK	104
ROASTERS 4# & UP	ICE PACK	104-107
	DRY PACK	112
HENS OVER 5#	ICE PACK	91
	DRY PACK	98
DUCKS		149-162

**ESTIMATED U.S. LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTER**

UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION FOR WEEK ENDING DEC -18

	CURRENT WEEK 12/18/99 (1)	PREVIOUS WEEK 12/11/99
CLASS	THOUSAND HEAD	
BRO-FRY	156,830 (2)	152,367
LT HENS	2,153	2,146
HVY HENS	1,513	1,468
CHECK TOTAL	160,496	155,981

(1)ESTIMATED

(2)The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 18-Dec-99 is 139.5 million head compared to 156.2 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 158.7 million head or 19.2 million more than estimated available. For week of 25-Dec-99 the estimated available is 137.9 million head.

**WEEKLY COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS**

SELECTED STORAGE CENTERS

(INCLUDES GOVERNMENT STOCKS) (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEY LBS	PROCESSED POULTRY LBS
AM 13-Dec-99	66,705	77,566
AM 1-Dec-99	82,430	74,738
CHG	-15,725	2,828
PCT CHG	-19	4

**COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT** (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEYS			PROCESSED POULTRY		
	12/13/99	12/06/99	12/14/98	12/13/99	12/06/99	12/14/98
<b>PACIFIC</b>						
<b>COAST</b>	6,928	7,601	13,717	13,543	13,519	5,849
<b>LOS</b>						
<b>ANGELES</b>	196	175	803	4,181	4,280	869

**HACKETTSTOWN POULTRY SALES**

FOR 12/14/99

	LOW	HIGH	AVG		LOW	HIGH	AVG
HEAVY FOWL lb.	.50	.95	.76	HEAVY FOWL ea.	-	2.00	-
LIGHT FOWL lb.	-	1.00	-	LIGHT FOWL ea.	-	-	-
MIXED FOWL lb.	-	-	-	MIXED FOWL ea.	1.00	1.50	-
BANTAMS lb.	-	.70	-	BANTAMS ea.	.35	3.50	-
BROILERS lb.	-	.70	-	BROILERS ea.	-	-	-
ROASTERS lb.	-	-	-	ROASTERS ea.	-	-	-
FRYERS lb.	-	-	-	FRYERS ea.	-	-	-
CHICKS lb.	-	-	-	CHICKS ea.	-	-	-
PULLETS lb.	-	-	-	PULLETS ea.	-	-	-
BUNNIES lb.	-	-	-	BUNNIES ea.	.50	2.50	-
ROOSTERS lb.	.50	1.25	.97	ROOSTERS ea.	2.25	4.75	-
GEESE lb.	-	.35	-	GEESE ea.	4.75	11.00	-
TURKEYS lb.	-	.40	-	TURKEYS ea.	-	10.00	-
DUCKS lb.	.45	1.55	1.12	DUCKS ea.	-	.25	-
RABBITS lb.	.10	1.25	.84	RABBITS ea.	-	-	-
PIGEONS lb.	-	-	-	PIGEONS ea.	1.00	4.00	-
GUINEA FOWL lb.	-	-	-	GUINEA FOWL ea	6.50	9.50	-
DUCKLINGS lb.	-	-	-	DUCKLINGS ea.	-	-	-
GUINEA KEETS ea.	-	-	-	CALL DUCKS ea.	-	-	-
SILKIES ea.	1.00	2.50	-	GOSLINGS ea.	-	-	-
GUINEA PIGS ea.	.50	3.50	-				

TOTAL COOPS 50

**CENTRAL MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY RTC HENS**

READY-TO-COOK PRICES NEGOTIATED FOR DELIVERY TO FIRST RECEIVERS, U.S. GRADE A AND PLANT GRADE, 5LBS. AND UP, FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 13 , 1999.

		RANGE
<b>HENS</b>	ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	60-63
	VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	66

**MAJOR WHOLESALE MARKETS-Mexico City**

Cents per pound for the week ending December 10, 1999

	Whole Chickens	Breasts	Legs w/ Thighs	Necks,Backs & Wings	Livers/ Gizzards	Hens
<b>RAYON</b>						
Low	54.05	115.83	77.22	24.13	5.79	50.68
High	55.98	130.31	86.87	28.96	7.24	50.68
Mostly	55.50	125.48	86.87	24.13	5.79	50.68

**SAN JUAN**

Low	55.02	101.35	67.57	19.31	4.83	48.26
High	56.95	125.48	82.05	33.78	8.69	48.26
Mostly	56.95	115.83	72.39	24.13	5.79	48.26

**NEW SAN JUAN**

Low	54.05	115.83	72.39	19.31	5.79	50.68
High	55.98	130.31	86.87	28.96	7.24	50.68
Mostly	55.98	125.48	82.05	24.13	7.24	50.68

**BECERRA**

Low	55.02	101.35	67.57	24.13	4.83	48.26
High	57.92	120.66	77.22	33.78	8.69	48.26
Mostly	56.95	111.00	67.57	24.13	5.79	48.26

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